Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): An auctioning system for facilitating bidder participation in an auction for the purchase of a lot, comprising:

at least a first data processing device and a memory in communication with the data processing device, the memory storing instructions executable by the data processing device to:

receive a plurality of messages from a plurality of bidders for the lot, each message including a bid for the lot;

determine whether each of the plurality of messages comprises an acceptable bid;

for each acceptable bid, send a bid acceptance message by SMS to each of said bidders notifying the bidder of the status of the bidder's bid;

charge each bidder for sending the bid acceptance message; and

determine a bidder associated with a lowest unique bid for the lot, wherein, at a close of the auction, the lowest unique bid is a winning bid in the auction for the purchase of the lot, wherein at least one acceptable bid is not a winning bid.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The auctioning system of claim 1, wherein the plurality of messages are received via SMS messaging.

Claim 3 (previously presented): The auctioning system of claim 1, wherein the instructions are further executable to charge each bidder by sending the bid acceptance message by a reverse billed SMS message.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The auctioning system of claim 1, wherein the instructions are further executable to limit each bidder up to a maximum number of bids per auction.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The auctioning system ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, wherein the bid acceptance message notifies the bidder that either ~~their~~ the bidder's bid is the current lowest unique bid, ~~their~~ the bidder's bid is not unique or ~~their~~ the bidder's bid is unique, but is not currently the lowest unique bid.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The auctioning system ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, wherein instructions are further executable to:
send a notification message to a bidder when the status of the bidder's bid changes.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The auctioning system ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 6, wherein the status of the bidder's bid changes to not currently being a unique bid and the notification message notifies the bidder that ~~their~~ the bidder's bid is no longer unique and the price of the bidder's bid.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The auctioning system ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 6, wherein the status of the bidder's bid changes to not currently being the lowest unique bid and the notification message notifies the bidder that ~~their~~ the bidder's bid is no longer the lowest unique bid but is currently a unique bid.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The auctioning system ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, wherein the received bidder messages are passed at least partially over the internet before processing the bid or the bid acceptance messages are passed at least partially over the internet before being sent by SMS.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The auctioning system ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 1, wherein the instructions are executable to handle communication with the bidders by software in real time.

Claim 11 (canceled).

Claim 12 (currently amended): The auctioning system ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 26, wherein the instructions are further executable to:

receive an auction identifier data item with one of the bid data items, the auction identifier data item being derived from the same bid message sent by a bidder as the bid data item; and

use the auction identifier data item to determine an auction corresponding to the auction identifier data item.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The auctioning system ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 26, wherein the instructions are further executable to:

validate one of the bid data items to determine whether a corresponding bid is an acceptable bid for the auction.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The auctioning system ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 26, wherein the instructions are further executable to:

poll a message store to identify new messages;

use a mobile phone telephone number data item to determine whether one of the bids is associated with a live session for an auction and if it is then loading message data into a message object;

if one of the bids is not associated with a live session for the auction, then use an auction identifier data item to determine whether the one of the bids is for an auction and if it is then load message data into a message object; and

pass the message object to an auction application.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The auctioning system of claim 26, wherein the instructions are further executable to:

check whether one of the bid data items is in the correct bid units; and

if not, then convert the one of the bid data items into the correct bid units.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The auctioning system of claim 26, wherein the instructions are further executable to generate a unique identifier for each bid data item received.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The auctioning system of claim 13, wherein the instructions executable to validate the one of the bid data items include at least one of the following:

instructions executable to determine whether an auction is active;

instructions executable to determine whether a bid corresponding to the one of the bid data items exceeds a maximum number of bids for the bidder; and

instructions executable to determine whether the one of the bid data items falls within a range of acceptable bid values.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The auctioning system of claim 26, wherein the instructions executable to determine whether one of the bid data items is the current lowest unique bid for the auction further comprise instructions executable to:

carry out a look up of a database of stored bid data items for the auction;

determine whether the number of stored bids at a bid data item value is zero;

if the number of stored bids at the bid data item value is zero then carry out a look up of the database of stored bid data items for the auction to determine the current lowest unique bid value; and

determine whether the bid data item value is less than the current lowest unique bid value.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The auctioning system ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 26, further comprising instructions executable to marshal the bid acceptance message, which comprise instructions executable to:

select a message template for the acceptance message;

look up stored variable data items; and

populate the message template with the variable data items.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The auctioning system ~~as claimed in~~ of claim 26, wherein the instructions executable to send the acceptance message include instructions executable to load a message object with message data and bidder data.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The auctioning system of claim 20, wherein sending the acceptance message further includes placing the message object in a message queue table.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The auctioning system of claim 21, wherein sending the acceptance message further includes:

polling the message queue table to identify new messages;

passing new messages to an aggregator service for transmission as an SMS message to the bidder.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The auctioning system of claim 22, wherein the instructions are further executable to receive a receipt ID from the aggregator for the message passed to the aggregator and store the receipt ID when received.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The auctioning system ~~as claimed in~~of claim 23, wherein the instructions are further executable to determine whether the receipt ID has been received and update a status associated with the sent message.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The auctioning system as claimed in of claim 24, wherein the instructions are further executable to:

identify a group of lowest unique bids; and

determine the lowest bid of the group of lowest unique bids for which the bid acceptance message has been received.

Claim 26 (currently amended): An auctioning system for facilitating bidder participation in an auction for the purchase of a lot, comprising:

at least a first data processing device and a memory in communication with the data processing device, the memory storing instructions executable by the processor to:

receive a plurality of bid data items over a computer network to which the computer system is connected, each bid data item being derived from a bid message sent by a bidder;

determine whether each bid data item comprises an acceptable bid;

prior to a close of the auction, determine whether each bid data item is the current lowest unique bid for an the auction;

for each bid data item that comprises an acceptable bid, generate a bid acceptance message wherein:

if it is determined that the bid data item is the current lowest unique bid, then to generate a bid acceptance message indicating that the bid is the current lowest unique bid, and if it is determined that the bid data item is not the current lowest unique bid, then to generate a bid acceptance message indicating that the bid is not the current lowest unique bid;

determine a destination telecommunications device phone number for the acceptance message; and

send the acceptance message, at least partially over the computer network, for transmission to the bidder at the destination telecommunications device by a reverse billed SMS message, wherein, at a the close of the auction, a lowest unique bid is a winning bid in the auction for the purchase of the lot, wherein at least one

acceptable bid is not a winning bid.

Claims 27 and 28 (canceled).

Claim 29 (currently amended):   The auctioning system ~~as claimed in~~of claim 1, wherein the instructions are further executable to:

determine that the auction of the lot has ended; and

send a notification message to the bidder whose bid is the lowest unique bid that the bidder has placed a winning bid.

Claim 30 (currently amended):   The auctioning system ~~as claimed in~~of claim 26, wherein the instructions are further executable to:

determine that the auction of the lot has ended; and

send a notification message to the bidder whose bid is the lowest unique bid that the bidder has placed a winning bid.